

SOUTH CENTRAL COLORADO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING

Alamosa Workforce Center
Conference Room
Tuesday February 11, 2014
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Members present:

Roni Wisdom
Scott VanGieson
Michael Yohn
Mike Jones
Dawn Farrington
Debra Gomez
Betty Velasquez
Barbara Pacheco
Shannon Garcia

Representing:

Board Chair
Vice Chair
LEO
Private Ag
TTA
TTA
SE/SC Region Director
WFC
WFC

Call to Order: Roni called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Scott made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Rural Consortium Update: Roni stated that there was a proposal submitted to the Rural Consortium that selected Alamosa as a host site for the Rural Consortium face to face on May 7-9. Roni encouraged local WIB Members to attend if Alamosa is chosen as the site. Roni also noted that Cheryl Rowe from the town of Crestone is representing telecommunications on the Rural Consortium Board.

Membership Recruitment: Roni stated that David Boyles is the chairman at First Southwest Bank and he is interested in becoming a board member. Dawn noted that she has talked to the lady at the Bridge about becoming a member of the youth council. Dawn discussed what has been working in the Southwest Region as far as their youth council and possibly trying something similar to that here. Dawn discussed inviting people that work with youth to come together and work on a mapping process surrounding youth. Roni noted that it is a mandate that each region in the Consortium have a youth council. Dawn noted that it was mentioned in the last monitoring about the need to have a youth council in the South Central Region. The board then brainstormed other local groups that may assist in the formation of a youth council. Dawn talked about doing a few mapping sessions in a few communities to see how those meetings flow; she is looking to start those meetings around April. Michael mentioned a state ballot issue concerning funding for the WIA Youth program, he asked what if anything board members knew about this but no one had information. Dawn discussed the differences between the local youth councils and the Rural Consortium Youth Council. Betty also discussed focusing on specific targets for the youth council to work on and once the target is completed the group would move to the next target. Michael found the email concerning the ballot issue he was discussing; it was determined that this is the Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.

Sectors Summit: Roni informed the board that the Sectors Summit will be taking place on May 20-21, 2014 more information will be given as it is received.

WIA Update: Roni asked if the RFP came out today, Dawn stated that she has not looked yet but she believed that it had. Roni discussed how long the RFP would be open and what will occur after the RFP cutoff as far as the RFP review.

Dawn stated that there are 151 clients that they are currently serving. They are on target with their goals with the exception of the Dislocated Worker Program. Dawn noted that the wage has been lowered for the Consortium this year, 80% of goal is around \$15. Dawn stated that last year the Consortium did not meet the goal and that is why there was some reevaluation of the wage this year. Dawn noted that TTA will be hiring again and they hope to find someone in the next week or so.

Roni passed out a handout to the board showing the UI numbers for the region by county, the average hourly wage in the region per county, and the number of miles to Alamosa and Monte Vista from each county in the region. Roni asked how the board can help people reach the people in these outlying areas. Betty noted that these numbers are skewed due to government being included in the average; she noted that if you take the average wage from Connecting Colorado it is closer to \$10 per hour. Roni also brought up that many people in the outlying areas may not have access to or know how to utilize the computer to access workforce services. Roni asked the board to start looking at this issue and brainstorm ideas of what can be done to assist those in need. Dawn noted that Debra does go to San Luis and Ft. Garland; Debra noted that she has been working with DHS and conducting workshops. Debra noted that some people in those outlying areas do not have the transportation to get to Alamosa for work or training and in the areas where they live there are not a lot of opportunities. Dawn also noted that outreach has been done at Saguache Schools, Del Norte Schools, and some of the other schools in the outlying areas. Roni asked if the Workforce staff go out to those areas; Debra stated that she does talk about WF services when she goes out and DHS is going to be working with WF soon. Betty noted that Linda works closely with Rio Grande and Stephanie works with Conejos and outreach is done with the schools. Roni noted that she thinks that the region is doing a great job with the resources available but she is just trying to brainstorm what can be done to help. Dawn noted that it would be an idea to survey about 100 unemployed individuals in the area to identify what their needs and barriers are.

Workforce Update: Betty passed out and discussed a handout with numbers of active jobseekers, new applicants, reactivations, staff assisted services, referrals, job orders, job fairs/hiring events, UI Claimants, Veterans, Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers, resource center usage, employer contacts, and employer services. Betty also highlighted the two day Ag Summit that the Monte Vista staff took part in. Betty also noted that the staff is currently working on the Small Business Expo, this is still in the planning stages but they are looking at holding this event May 9th and 10th. Barb noted that last year staff were a part of the planning as well as had a booth. Betty stated that the Governor was recently in Alamosa for the Blueprint tour; Roni stated that this turned into a town hall meeting where attendees were able to discuss concerns and ask questions of the Governor. Roni noted that he was here for about an hour before he had to leave for Pueblo; Roni thought that the meeting was well attended. Dawn added that the Governor went to Durango as well and she thinks that he really does care about Rural Colorado. Michael thought it was a good meeting.

Toolkit: Dawn stated in one of the staff discussions that took place is that when creating this document these behaviors need to be simultaneously happening and each of these things go hand in hand. Betty made a comment/suggestion to omit the definitive words from the toolkit. Dawn asked

what the next step would be for the toolkit. It was discussed that this document would be the starting point but that each industry would be able to add what they would like to see in their industry toolkit. Mike stated that he and Gus discussed the basics of the toolkit at the ag meeting. The board then discussed what industry they wanted to start reaching out to first. Mike stated that he felt that the board should reach out to the industry with the most available jobs first. Barb noted that at this time there are more openings in hospitality and construction. Michael suggested that this be shared with Community Corrections; Scott suggested that this be shared with the schools. It was then discussed that once it is known what the industry needs are trainings could be formulated. Roni suggested that businesses with open positions that are like industries be pulled together and a meeting could be held to determine needs. Betty suggested also sharing this at the Consortium Meeting in May, Roni stated that she would like to hold a local meeting first. It was decided to look at Hospitality first and identify about five companies that would take part. The board looked at their calendars and decided on a date to hold the first meeting; it was decided that March 11, 2014 from 1-3 would work. Roni stated that the Depot could be utilized as a meeting place. Betty suggested inviting ten employers to the meeting.

Adjournment: With no further business the meeting was ended.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2014 at 1:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Garcia